

21st October 1927]

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYFED :—“ Am I to understand that the report of a single gentleman counted more with the Government than the representations of the twelve elected members of the Erode Municipality ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ Will the hon. Member please repeat his question ? ”

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—“ Am I to understand that it is the policy of the Government that the opinion or the statement of a single individual should count more than the representations made by twelve elected members of a municipality ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ That is only a matter of opinion.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I know if the Government received several communications recently that this Chairman has committed several irregularities ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I want notice.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I know if after notice of the question was sent up, the Government took up for consideration the question of dissolving this municipal council ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ No, Sir.”

Alleged discrepancies in the accounts of the Erode Municipality.

* 770 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Local Fund Auditor who audited the accounts of the Erode Municipality during last year found out grave discrepancies in the accounts of the Erode Municipality and reported to the Government about the same and also recommended the prosecution of the Chairman and other persons concerned ;

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy of the report of the Auditor and connected papers on the table of the House ; and

(c) whether the Government took any action against the Chairman on the recommendation of the Auditor’s Report, and if not, why not ?

A.—(a) Apparent discrepancies were brought to notice. The Auditor did not make any specific recommendations for the prosecution of *any* person.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The Government passed orders in G.O. No. 3930, L. & M., dated 9th September 1926, after an investigation held by the Collector. The order is laid on the table.^a

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ With reference to the Government Order at page 24 of this list, may I ask the hon. Minister what exactly is the finding of the Government as regards his gross carelessness in dealing with municipal money ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ What exactly the Government propose to do is contained in the Government Order.”

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ That is not my question, Sir. It is the mistake of reading the answer for the first time. I am asking what the finding of the Government is as a result of their investigation whether the Chairman has been grossly careless in dealing with municipal money. There are various ways in which a person can be grossly careless. I wish to know in what respects the Government have found the Chairman grossly careless.”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I want notice, Sir.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Sir, it is stated that his manipulation of municipal funds lays him open to grave suspicion. May I ask of what, of misappropriation ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I want notice, Sir.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ With regard to the last sentence of the order may I ask the hon. Minister why the Government have not taken any steps to prosecute the Chairman in His Majesty’s courts of law ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ No prima facie guilt has been established.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Is it a fact that he drew travelling allowance for a journey which he did not perform ? Was it one of the charges ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I am not aware of it, Sir.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Sir, may I know, when the hon. Minister wants notice for a question asking the manner in which the Chairman was found grossly careless and again when he wants notice to say what the suspicion is to which the Chairman has laid himself open, how he has come to the conclusion without looking into the papers that the evidence before the Government did not establish even a prima facie guilt against the Chairman ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ That is calling for an opinion.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ No, Sir.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member has to accept the ruling.”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ With reference to the statement made here that the Chairman was grossly careless, may I ask the hon. Minister to give us an idea of the amount of money involved ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ Notice.”

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—“ In view of the statement made that no prima facie guilt was found, may I ask whether any legal advice was taken and if so, whose advice ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I am not prepared to answer that question.”

Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—“ May I know whether the Collector also recommended the prosecution of this Chairman ? ”

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ I want notice.”